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Surete Director Calls City 'Most Beautiful in World'

By David Miller.

As discreetly as a man from Interpol, the chief of 75,000 French police yesterday stamped approval on security arrangements for President de Gaulle's visit here tomorrow but capitulated to tourists' ecstasy.

New York, he said, is the "biggest and most beautiful city in the world." And he made the statement in Brooklyn.

Jean Verdier, director general of the Surete Nationale, made the lavish remark twice—once in French and again in English—and said New York City's police had earned an "extraordinary reputation" around the world.

Arrived Thursday

He slipped into town quietly Thursday after three days in Washington and conferences with Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Secret Service and the Department of State.

In New York he conferred with Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy, cheered the Yankees to victory on opening day Friday (his first baseball game), commended as "excellent" a Broadway musical, "The Sound of Music" told Patrick Vecchio, a young Brooklyn detective, he was "superior" as an interpreter and attended a Police Holy Name Society communion breakfast yesterday at the Hotel St. George, Brooklyn.

Gives Kennedy Medal

After yesterday's ham steak and egg breakfast, he gave Mr. Kennedy a gold and enamel medal as a tribute from the French Ministry of the Interior and announced:

"Vive la police! Vive New York! Vive les Etats-Unis! Vive la France!"

The 3,000 Brooklyn and Queens police loved every word and he left for Paris last night with assurance from Mr. Kennedy that he had won the hearts of the force.

New York, said Mr. Kennedy, will guard President de Gaulle "like a brother" but admitted it was "a dream" assignment compared to the precautions for Nikita S. Khrushchev's stormy tour.

Mr. Verdier, at forty-five the

chief of all state police in France and Algeria (except Paris, which has its own municipal force) and of all counter-espionage (including Paris), said there were no suggestions he could add to the New York plans for President de Gaulle.

"The organization here is excellent," he said. "There are no problems."

Mr. Verdier is responsible for safeguarding President de Gaulle and other heads of states in France, but in foreign countries the responsibility is local. "I have confidence New York will do for President de Gaulle what we did for President Eisenhower." He has authority over an additional 60,000 local police in the event of a major disorder.

Six French agents are accompanying President de Gaulle, he said, but matters are so well in hand that Mr. Verdier returned to Paris praising Mr. Kennedy and Chief Inspector Michael J. Murphy.

Detective Guides Him

His guide in New York was Detective Third Grade Vecchio, twenty-nine, of the Bureau of Special Services. Born to Italian parents, he studied French in high school and St. John's University and was stationed in Paris with the United States Army.

His French is so good that when the French Consul General offered a staff interpreter, Mr. Verdier declined. Detective Vecchio, he said, was unfailing. An interpreter was needed because New Yorkers have a way of slurring their words, an unidentified observer declared.



Herald Tribune photo by Terence McCarten

FRENCH POLICE CHIEF HERE—Jean Verdier (right), director general of the Surete Nationale, at Times Square with New York Police detective Patrick Vecchio, his guide and interpreter.